

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207231

FOLLOWING REPEAT CONAKRY 1478 ACTION SECSTATE 7 AUG 8.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1478

AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XA, GV, US

SUBJECT: MOOSE EXCHANGE WITH TOURE ON AFRICAN ISSUE

REF: CONAKRY 1477

1. IN COURSE OF EXTENDED EXCHANGE BETWEEN ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MOOSE AND PRESIDENT TOURE AUGUST 3,AND AT
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LUNCHEON THAT FOLLOWED, TOURE MADE A NUMBER OF OBSER-
VATIONS ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS:

A. HE SAID ECOWAS IS A FACTOR FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION
IN WEST AFRICA AND IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY GUINEA.
ASSERTED THE US WORRIES TOO MUCH ABOUT COMMUNISM IN
AFRICA AND PAYS TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC POLICIES
AND DEVELOPMENT. REGARDING HIS RECONCILIATION WITH

SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, HE SAID THE PROBLEMS WITH THEM HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY FRANCE AND HAVE NOW VANISHED. THERE HAD BEEN SOME INITIAL RESISTANCE FROM SENEGAL, BUT HE HAS NOW DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND HAS NAMED AN AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA: GUINEA'S AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL WILL BE NAMED THIS WEEK.

B. ON NAMIBIA, TOURE SAID HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIVE CONTACT STATES. HE REMAINS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SWAPO AND HAS TELEGRAPHS UNSYG WALDHEIM, OFFERING GUINEAN SOLDIERS FOR THE UN FORCE IN NAMIBIA, AND OFFERING SOME ENGLISH-SPEAKING OFFICIALS TO HELP WITH ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY.

C. ON RHODESIA, TOURE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT

(1) SMITH WILL NOT REALIZE HE IS FINISHED, WILL TRY TO PUT IN HIS OWN PEOPLE AND THERE WILL BE NO PEACE OR SOLUTION; AND

(2) WHEN SMITH IS GONE THERE WILL BE BLOODY CIVIL WAR. TOURE SAID UNITY AMONG AFRICAN LIBERATION ELEMENTS WOULD BE THE FIRST GREAT VICTORY.

D. SOUTH AFRICA, TOURE SAID, WOULD BE DEEPLY AFFECTED BY SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN AND RHODESIAN PROBLEMS, AND THIS COULD SET THE STAGE FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM AND ABOLITION OF APARTHEID, AFTER WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE WELCOME TO JOIN THE OAU.

E. TOURE OBSERVED THAT EVEN WISE MEN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA WITHOUT OUTSIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSISTANCE.

F. REGARDING CHAD, TOURE STRONGLY OPPOSED FRENCH INTERVENTION, WHICH HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE OAU. HE ASSERTED THAT MAILOUM IS IN POWER ILLEGALLY. HAVING SEIZED IT BY FORCE. TOURE CONCEDED THAT THE LIBYANS SUPPLY FROLINAT, BUT HE ASSERTED THEY HAVE NOT INTRODUCED LIBYAN TROOPS OR OTHERWISE INTERVENED IN CHAD.

G. TOURE CONDEMNED AKUFFO'S COUP IN GHANA AND ESPECIALLY HIS PLAN TO DELAY RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. TOURE SAID THE GHANIAN WORKERS WILL EVENTUALLY ASSERT THEMSELVES.

H. TOURE EXPRESSED HIS CONDEMNATION OF COUPS IN GENERAL, BEGINNING WITH THAT IN TOGO. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT BENIN, HE CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED CONDEMNATION OF KEREKOU, SIMPLY SAYING BENIN IS A COUNTRY WITH TOO FEW WORKERS AND TOO MANY INTELLECTUALS. HE APPROVED THE PLANNED RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE IN NIGERIA, MALI AND UPPER VOLTA.

2. IN RESPONDING TO TOURE REGARDING GENERAL AFRICAN PROBLEMS, MOOSE:

A. EMPHASIZED SIMILARITY OF GUINEAN AND US AFRICAN

POLICIES AND REVIEWED PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO AFRICAN UNITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, SOUTHERN AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE AND ABOLITION OF APARTHEID, RESPECT FOR AFRICAN NATIONALISM AND ASPIRATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE OF AFRICA FREE OF EAST-WEST STRUGGLE. HE SAID US WISHES TO SUPPORT AFRICAN EFFORTS TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS OF AFRICA PROBLEMS: IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND THE INTERFERENCE OF FOREIGN SOLDIERS WILL NOT HELP RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. B. EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE NAMIBIAN SITUATION, SAYING THE DOOR IS OPEN WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS; HOPEFULLY, THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD CAN BE COMMENCED IN SEPTEMBER. C. WE WILL SIMILARLY CONTINUE EFFORTS TO GET A CONFERENCE AMONG ALL PARTIES TO THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM. WE SHARE CONFIDENTIAL

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TOURE'S FEAR OF CIVIL WAR AND THAT SMITH WILL NOT UNDERSTAND HE IS FINISHED. MOOSE POINTED OUT WE HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND SAID HE WAS PROUD OF THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION ACHIEVED WITH THEM. WE ARE SINCERELY COMMITTED TO LIBERATION, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THE ATTENTION IT HAS PAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, BUT WE KNOW THAT IF ALL PARTIES ARE NOT BROUGHT INTO THE SOLUTION, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN ZIMBABWE, AND CIVIL WAR AND ENORMOUS TRAGEDY WILL RESULT. D. MOOSE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE ZAMBIAN/ANGOLAN AGREEMENT, WHICH HE TERMED ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE US HAD OPENED CONTACTS WITH ANGOLA AND WAS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH NETO. ON THE STRENGTH OF OUR TALKS WE ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ANGOLAN POSITION REGARDING NAMIBIA AND RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, AND WE BELIEVE ANGOLA WILL SOON BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. E. MOOSE SUMMED UP WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT WE SHARE AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS REGARDING THE CONTINENT. HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT AFTER THE DRAMA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS PLAYED OUT, AFRICA WILL BE ABLE TO TURN ITS FULL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THE US DOES NOT HAVE A PAT SOLUTION FOR THESE PROBLEMS, BUT IT WANTS TO WORK WITH AFRICAN STATES AND HELP THEM WHEN IT CAN, IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION UNDERSCORED THE EXTENT OF TOURE'S WIDE-RANGING INTEREST IN PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS, REINFORCING REPORTS WE HAVE HAD OF HIS SUBSTANTIAL ACTIVITY TO THAT END AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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KHARTOUM OAU SUMIT AND ELSEWHERE. IT SUGGESTS THE
DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING HIM MORE CLOSELY INFORMED OF OUR
VIEWS REGARDING AND EFFORTS TOWARD SOLUTION OF SUCH
PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO GAIN HIS UNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS
SUPPORT OR COOPERATION. END COMMENT:.

CROSBY

SUBJECT TEL REISSUED DOWNGRADE PER MR. MCELHANEY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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